

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 SWF-02 AF-10 EA-11 IO-14 DRC-01 /231 W

----- 110714

R 101858Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0265

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: SUGAR: WEST INDIES QUOTA UNDER PROPOSED SUGAR  
LEGISLATION

REF: STATE 92686

1. WE BRIEFED FAWCETT (MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHER-  
IES AND FOOD) ON SUBCOMMITTEE DECISIONS ALONG LINES  
PARAS 1 THROUGH 8, STATE 96272. HE SAID AS YET UK HAD  
RECEIVED NO INFORMATION ABOUT REACTIONS CARIBBEAN GOVTS.  
HOWEVER, IN PRELIMINARY WAY, ASSUMING SUBCOMMITTEE'S  
DECISIONS BASED STRICTLY ON PAST PERFORMANCE, SEEMED TO  
UK NO REAL CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT EXISTED. ESSENTIALLY  
UK'S POLICY TOWARDS CARIBBEAN SUPPLIERS BASED ON DESIRE  
ASSURE THEIR ECONOMIES REMAINED VIABLE. ACTION OF SUB-  
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COMMITTEE SEEMED PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO WEST

INDIES AND THUS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVEMENT OF UK GOALS.

2. HE ALSO SAID UK SUGAR MISSION WAS CURRENTLY IN WEST INDIES IN ORDER EXAMINE AND ASSESS REALISTICALLY PROSPECTS FOR CARIBBEAN PRODUCTION OVER NEXT 5 YEARS. HE SAID IN CURRENT YEAR UK EXPECTS SUBSTANTIAL SHORT FALL ABOUT TWO TO THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS, IN CARIBBEAN CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS UNDER COMMONWEALTH SUGAR AGREEMENT. UNFORTUNATELY IT SEEMS LIKELY WEST INDIES PRODUCTION CANNOT BE READILY INCREASED AND MISSION'S PURPOSE IS TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS THIS DEVELOPMENT FOR FUTURE SUGAR SUPPLY TO BRITAIN.

3. WE ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF PRESENT SITUATION ON EC SUGAR ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID THAT OF COURSE COMMUNITY COULD PRODUCE ALL ITS SUGAR REQUIREMENTS AND EXPORTABLE SURPLUS WITHOUT ANY IMPORTS OF CANE SUGAR FROM LDC SUPPLIERS. THEIR COMMITMENT IS A MORAL ONE. EVEN THOUGH WEST INDIES LOOKS LIKE HAVING SHORT FALL OVER NEXT 5 YEARS, WHICH HE EXPECTS WOULD BE TERM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND LDC SUPPLIERS, OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE CAPACITY TO EXPAND PRODUCTION TO TAKE UP SLACK. THEREFORE HE DID NOT THINK WEST INDIES SUGAR SITUATION WOULD BE CONTROLLING FACTOR IN COMMUNITY DECISION ON SUGAR POLICY. HE OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE LARGE SHORT FALLS -- FIRST IN HISTORY OF CSA -- SHOULD OCCUR IN YEAR THAT FINAL DECISION ABOUT COMMUNITY SUGAR POLICY WOULD BE MADE.

SOHM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SUGAR, LAW, AGREEMENTS, IMPORT QUOTAS, COMMITTEES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LONDON05868  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740115-0538  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740558/aaaabzld.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 92686  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SUGAR: WEST INDIES QUOTA UNDER PROPOSED SUGAR LEGISLATION  
**TAGS:** ETRD, EAGR, XL, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005